

January 27, 1992

committee.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I'm kind of like Ernie, I'm out of breath. I ran up here. Got a lot of farmers having sales at home calling me on the phone wondering what the heck is going on. I suppose some of you others do too. The Natural Resources Committee had a hearing for nominees for the Environmental Control Council. We had eight people come before the committee and we accepted six and rejected two which is kind of historical. I don't know if your committees have rejected anyone in the past, the Governor's nominee for a committee, but I think we had this discussion last year that we should look more closely at the people being put in these positions because in some cases they are handling millions of dollars in funds. In this case they are making long-term decisions on rules and regulations that will affect the environment of the State of Nebraska, so I would encourage all the other committees to look as closely at all their nominees as the Natural Resources Committee did at these nominees. We had reconfirmed Dr. Janet Bernard-Stevens. We reconfirmed Fred Hlava and we had new appointees, Dennis Heermann, Jack Dixon, Paul Fuhrer and Nancy Andrews, some of them very well qualified. Nancy Andrews specifically is very well qualified, has worked in the environmental area for the Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, as a consultant in San Francisco for environmental issues, worked at the Energy Coordinating Office at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, an assistant scientist at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, very well qualified for the job of Environmental Control Council. Some of the others I guess someone might question and this is really kind of tough for me because I was going to stand up and raise some questions here, so I really don't know how to go about introducing the committee report with a lot of enthusiasm. Because some of these nominees, for an example, one gentleman works for a pipeline company and he will be in the position of approving rules and regs that could affect the company he works for. He's in the corporate structure of this pipeline company and he will be in a position of setting on the Environmental Control Council and ruling on rules and regs that will directly affect the financial statement of his company. He will be in a position to negatively affect the profits of his corporation for the benefit of the citizens of the State of Nebraska. So I questioned him long and hard on how he would make that decision when it was definitely going to go against his corporation and for the citizens of the State of Nebraska and he said, well, no